

Amendments to the Claims

Kindly amend claims 1, 7, 10, 16, 17, 20, 21, 26 & 27 as set forth below. All pending claims are reproduced below, with changes in the amended claims shown by underlining (for added matter) and strikethrough/double brackets (for deleted matter).

1. (Currently Amended) A method of establishing instant messaging communication between wireless devices, said method comprising:

connecting a first wireless device to an instant messaging server;

transmitting device address and access code information of the first wireless device from the first wireless device to the instant messaging server;

employing the instant messaging server to establish an instant messaging session between the first wireless device and at least one other wireless device;

subsequent to establishing of the instant messaging session, requesting by the first wireless device a list of active wireless devices from the instant messaging server in a same piconet as the first wireless device, the piconet having a range characteristic indicative of a distance within which radio signals carry between wireless devices of the piconet using direct connection wireless technology;

transferring from the instant messaging server to the first wireless device the list of active wireless devices in the same piconet as the first wireless device;

employing by the first wireless device the list of active wireless devices in the same piconet to identify at the first wireless device whether the at least one other wireless device in the instant messaging session belongs to the same piconet as the first wireless device; and

if the at least one other wireless device in the instant messaging session belongs to the same piconet as the ~~first~~ first wireless device, then without further employing the instant messaging server, transferring by the first wireless device the instant messaging session to ~~[[a]]~~ peer-to-peer communication ~~model~~ employing direct wireless instant messaging communication across the piconet between the first wireless device and the at least one other wireless device.

2-5. (Previously Canceled).

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said establishing comprises employing Jabber instant messaging protocol and Bluetooth technology for wireless communication in making a direct instant messaging connection between the first wireless device and the second wireless device.

7. (Currently Amended) An instant messaging method comprising:

establishing a connection between a first wireless client and an instant messaging server;

employing the instant messaging server to establish an instant messaging session between the first wireless client and at least one other wireless client;

subsequent to establishing of the instant messaging session, sending a request from the first wireless client to the instant messaging server for a list of active wireless clients in a same piconet as the first wireless device, the piconet having a range characteristic indicative of a distance within which radio signals carry between wireless devices of the piconet using direct connection wireless technology;

receiving the list of active wireless clients in the same piconet at the first wireless client from the instant messaging server;

employing by the first wireless client the list of active wireless clients in the same piconet to identify at the first wireless client whether the at least one other wireless client in the instant messaging session belongs to the same piconet as the first wireless client; and

if the at least one other wireless client in the instant messaging session belongs to the same piconet as the first wireless client, then without further employing the instant messaging server, transferring by the first wireless client the instant messaging session to [[a]] peer-to-peer communication model employing direct wireless instant messaging communication across the piconet between the first wireless client and the at least one other wireless client.

8-9. (Previously Canceled).

10. (Currently Amended) A system for establishing instant messaging communication between wireless devices, said system comprising:

means for connecting a first wireless device to an instant messaging server;

means for transmitting device address and access code information of the first wireless device from the first wireless device to the instant messaging server;

means for employing the instant messaging server to establish an instant messaging session between the first wireless device and at least one other wireless device;

means for requesting, subsequent to establishing of the instant messaging session, by the first wireless device a list of active wireless devices from the instant messaging server in a same piconet as the first wireless device, the piconet having a range characteristic indicative of a distance within which radio signals carry between wireless devices of the piconet using direct connection wireless technology;

means for transferring from the instant messaging server to the first wireless device the list of active wireless devices in the same piconet as the first wireless device;

means for employing by the first wireless device the list of active wireless devices in the same piconet to identify at the first wireless device whether the at least one other wireless device in the instant messaging session belongs to the same piconet as the first wireless device; and

if the at least one other wireless device in the instant messaging session belongs to the same piconet as the first wireless device, then means for transferring by the first wireless device, without further employing the instant messaging server, the instant messaging session to ~~[[a]]~~ peer-to-peer communication ~~model~~ employing direct wireless instant messaging communication across the piconet between the first wireless device and the at least one other wireless device.

11-14. (Previously Canceled).

15. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 10, wherein said means for establishing comprises means for employing Jabber instant messaging protocol and Bluetooth technology for wireless communication in making a direct instant messaging connection between the first wireless device and the second wireless device.

16. (Currently Amended) An instant messaging system comprising:

a first wireless device;

an instant messaging server capable of responding to the first wireless device, said instant messaging server establishing an instant messaging session between the first wireless device and at least one other wireless device, and providing upon request a list of active wireless devices belonging to the same piconet as the first wireless device, the piconet having a range characteristic indicative of a distance within which radio signals carry between wireless devices of the piconet using direct connection wireless technology; and

wherein the first wireless device is adapted to employ the list of active wireless devices in the same piconet to identify whether the at least one additional wireless device in the instant messaging session belongs to the same piconet as the first wireless device and if the at least one other wireless device in the instant messaging session belongs to the same piconet as the first wireless device, then the first wireless device is adapted to transfer, without further employing the instant messaging server, the instant messaging session to [[a]] peer-to-peer communication ~~model~~ employing direct wireless instant messaging communication across the piconet between the first wireless device and the at least one other wireless device.

17. (Currently Amended) An instant messaging system comprising:

means for establishing a connection between a first wireless client and an instant messaging server;

means for employing the instant messaging server to establish an instant messaging session between the first wireless client and at least one other wireless client;

means for sending, subsequent to establishing of the instant messaging session, a request from the first wireless client to the instant messaging server for a list of active wireless clients in a same piconet as the first wireless device, the piconet having a range characteristic indicative of a distance within which radio signals carry between wireless devices of the piconet using direct connection wireless technology;

means for receiving the list of active wireless clients in the same piconet at the first wireless client from the instant messaging server;

means for employing by the first wireless client the list of active wireless clients in the same piconet to identify at the first wireless client whether the at least one other wireless client in the instant messaging session belongs to the same piconet as the first wireless client; and

if the at least one other wireless client in the instant messaging session belongs to the same piconet as the first wireless client, then without further employing the instant messaging server, means for transferring by the first wireless client the instant messaging session to ~~[[a]]~~ peer-to-peer communication ~~model~~ employing direct wireless instant messaging communication across the piconet between the first wireless client and the at least one other wireless client.

18-19. (Previously Canceled).

20. (Currently Amended) An instant messaging system comprising:

a first wireless client adapted to establish connection to an instant messaging server;

wherein the first wireless client employs the instant messaging server to establish an instant messaging session between the first wireless client and at least one other wireless client;

wherein, subsequent to establishing of the instant messaging session, the first wireless client sends a request to the instant messaging server for a list of active wireless client(s) in a same piconet as the first wireless client for instant messaging, the piconet having a range characteristic indicative of a distance

within which radio signals carry between wireless devices of the piconet using direct connection wireless technology;

said instant messaging server forwarding the list of active wireless clients in the same piconet to the first wireless client responsive to said request;

wherein the first wireless client employs the list of active wireless clients in identifying at the first wireless client whether the at least one other wireless client in the instant messaging session belongs to the same piconet as the first wireless client; and

wherein if the at least one other wireless client in the instant messaging session belongs to the same piconet as the first wireless client, then without further employing the instant messaging server, transferring by the first wireless client the instant messaging session to ~~[[a]] peer-to-peer communication model~~ employing direct wireless instant messaging communication across the piconet between the first wireless client and the at least one other wireless client.

21. (Currently Amended) At least one program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying at least one program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method of establishing instant messaging communication between wireless devices, the method comprising:

connecting a first wireless device to an instant messaging server;

transmitting device address and access code information of the first wireless device from the first wireless device to the instant messaging server;

employing the instant messaging sever to establish an instant messaging session between the first wireless device and at least one other wireless device;

subsequent to establishing of the instant messaging session, requesting by the first wireless device a list of active wireless devices from the instant messaging server in a same piconet as the first wireless device, the piconet having a range characteristic indicative of a distance within which radio signals carry between wireless devices of the piconet using direct connection wireless technology;

transferring from the instant messaging server to the first wireless device the list of active wireless devices in the same piconet as the first wireless device;

employing by the first wireless device the list of active wireless devices in the same piconet to identify at the first wireless device whether the at least one other wireless device in the instant messaging session belongs to the same piconet as the first wireless device; and

if the at least one other wireless device in the instant messaging session belongs to the same piconet as the first wireless device, then without further employing the instant messaging server, transferring by the first wireless device the instant messaging session to ~~[[a]]~~ peer-to-peer communication ~~model~~ employing direct wireless instant messaging communication across the piconet between the first wireless device and the at least one other wireless device.

22-25. (Previously Canceled).

26. (Currently Amended) The at least one program storage device of claim 21, wherein said establishing comprises employing Jabber instant messaging protocol and Bluetooth technology for wireless communication in making a direct instant messaging connection between the first wireless device and the second wireless device.

27. (Currently Amended) At least one program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying at least one program of instructions executable by the machine to perform an instant messaging method, the method comprising:

establishing a connection between a first wireless client and an instant messaging server;

employing the instant messaging server to establish an instant messaging session between the first wireless client and at least one other wireless client;

subsequent to establishing of the instant messaging session, sending a request from the first wireless client to the instant messaging server for a list of active wireless clients in a same piconet as the first wireless device, the piconet having a range characteristic indicative of a distance within which radio signals

carry between wireless devices of the piconet using direct connection wireless technology;

receiving the list of active wireless clients in the same piconet at the first wireless client from the instant messaging server;

employing by the first wireless client the list of active wireless clients in the same piconet to identify at the first wireless client whether the at least one other wireless client in the instant messaging session belongs to the same piconet as the first wireless client; and

if the at least one other wireless client in the instant messaging session belongs to the same piconet as the ~~first~~ first wireless client, then without further employing the instant messaging server, transferring by the first wireless client the instant messaging session to ~~[[a]]~~ peer-to-peer communication ~~model~~ employing direct wireless instant messaging communication across the piconet between the first wireless client and the at least one other wireless client.

28-29. (Previously Canceled).

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